

4.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The proposed Plan (Chapter 3) provides long-term management direction to enhance and expand the recreation opportunities for both Folsom Lake SRA and Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park (SHP) while also providing more active protection and management of natural and cultural resources. The Plan is intended to be implemented over an extended period as determined by both user demand and need. To do so, the Plan provides both park-wide goals and guidelines relating to natural, cultural and visual resources, water quality, circulation, visitor services, facility development, interpretation and operations as well as direction for specific management zones within the park. The Draft Plan designates 34 geographic management zones, with 12 on Lake Natoma and 22 on Folsom Lake. Each zone has a specific management emphasis and is designated with one of five land use designations: Recreation-High, Recreation-Medium, Conservation, Preservation, or Administration. Altogether the Preferred Concept described in the proposed Plan includes 12 recreation zones, 17 conservation zones, 3 preservation zones, and 2 administration zones. Based on area, the management emphasis is for recreation on 91% of the aquatic area and 20% of the land area, and conservation on 74% of the land area and 9% of the aquatic area.

In addition to the NEPA and CEQA mandated No Action/No Project Alternative, three concept alternatives were considered during development of the Plan. Each alternative includes resources management actions to protect the physical resources of the site balanced with different scenarios for visitor facilities and experiences, while maintaining the project area purpose and vision. The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2, Section 4.2.2), is a summary of the Draft Plan described in Chapter 3.

Table 2.A summarizes the differences in land use classification for each management zone by alternative. Table 2.B summarizes the total acreage of each land use classification by alternative.

Alternatives 1 (*No Action/No Project Alternative*), 2 (*Preferred Alternative*), 3 (*Maximize Recreation Opportunities*), and 4 (*Increase Protection and Restoration of Natural/Cultural Resources*) are described in the following sections.

Table 2.A: Comparison of Land Use Classifications By Alternative

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>No Action – Current General Plan</i>	<i>Preferred Alternative – Draft Plan</i>	<i>Alternative 3 – Maximize Recreation Opportunities</i>	<i>Alternative 4 – Increase Restoration and Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources</i>
Lake Natoma						
1	Nimbus Flat/Shoals	119	Recreation - High	Recreation - High	Recreation - High	Recreation - High
2	Nimbus Dam	96	Administration	Administration	Administration	Administration
3	Lake Overlook	53	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation - Medium</i>	Conservation
4	Mississippi Bar	750	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation - Medium</i>	<i>Preservation</i>
5	Negro Bar	143	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	<i>Recreation - High</i>	Recreation - Medium
6	Natoma Canyon	263	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation
7	Folsom Powerhouse	20	Preservation	Preservation	Preservation	Preservation
8	Natoma Shore North	263	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation – Medium</i>	Conservation
9	Natoma Shore South	127	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation – Medium</i>	Conservation
10	Alder Creek/Pond	17	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation
11	Lower Lake Natoma (AQ)	234*	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium	Recreation – Medium
12	Upper Lake Natoma (AQ)	256*	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation – Medium</i>	Conservation
Folsom Lake						
13	Folsom Dam	257	Administration	Administration	Administration	Administration
14	Beal's Point	139	Recreation - High	Recreation – High	Recreation - High	Recreation - High
15	Mooney Ridge	168	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation
16	Granite Bay South	227	Recreation - High	Recreation – High	Recreation - High	Recreation - High
17	Granite Bay North	419	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation – Medium</i>	Conservation
18	Placer Shore	351	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation
19	Rattlesnake Bar	292	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	<i>Recreation – High</i>	<i>Conservation</i>
20	North Fork Shore	942	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Preservation</i>
21	Anderson Island	13	Preservation	Preservation	Preservation	Preservation
22	Peninsula	1,465	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation - Medium</i>	Conservation
23	Darrington	337	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation
24	Skunk Hollow/Salmon Falls	389	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	<i>Recreation – High</i>	Recreation - Medium

Table 2.A: Comparison of Land Use Classifications By Alternative

<i>Zone</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>No Action – Current General Plan</i>	<i>Preferred Alternative – Draft Plan</i>	<i>Alternative 3 – Maximize Recreation Opportunities</i>	<i>Alternative 4 – Increase Restoration and Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources</i>
25	El Dorado Shore	835	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation – Medium</i>	Conservation
26	Brown's Ravine	91	Recreation – High	Recreation – High	Recreation – High	Recreation – High
27	Mormon Island Cove	276	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Recreation - Medium</i>	Conservation
28	Mormon Island Preserve	113	Preservation	Preservation	Preservation	Preservation
29	Folsom Point	293	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	<i>Recreation – High</i>	Recreation - Medium
30	Folsom Lake (AQ)	8,098*	Recreation - High	Recreation - High	Recreation - High	Recreation - High
31	Middle North Fork (AQ)	1,162*	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	<i>Conservation</i>
32	Upper North Fork (AQ)	371*	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Preservation</i>
33	Middle South Fork (AQ)	828*	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	Recreation - Medium	<i>Conservation</i>
34	Upper South Fork (AQ)	393*	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	<i>Preservation</i>

*These management zones consist of the aquatic portions of the SRA and acres indicated are water surface acres at high pool or 466' elevation.

Table 2.B: COMPARISON OF LAND USE CLASSIFICATION ACREAGES BY ALTERNATIVE

	<i>No Action - Current General Plan</i>	<i>Preferred Alternative - Draft Plan</i>	<i>Alternative 3 - Maximize Recreation Opportunities</i>	<i>Alternative 4 - Increase Resource Protection and Restoration</i>
Land Use Classification				
Recreation - High				
land	576	576	1,693	576
water	8,098	8,098	8,098	8,098
<i>total</i>	8,674	8,674	9,791	8,674
Recreation - Medium				
land	1,117	1,117	4,188	825
water	2,224	2,224	2,480	234
<i>total</i>	3,341	3,341	6,668	1,059
Recreation Total:	12,015	12,015	16,459	9,733
Conservation				
land	6,266	6,266	2,078	4,866
water	1,020	1,020	764	2,246
Conservation Total:	7,286	7,286	2,842	7,112
Preservation				
land	146	146	146	1,838
water	0	0	0	764
Preservation Total:	146	146	146	2,602
Administration				
land	353	353	353	353
water	0	0	0	0
Administration Total:	353	353	353	353
TOTAL UNIT AREA	19,800	19,800	19,800	19,800

4.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action/No Project Alternative

In the No Action/No Project alternative, the existing General Plan would continue to provide the management direction and guidance for the SRA. The current General Plan for Folsom Lake SRA was adopted in 1979. Three amendments to this General Plan have been adopted including a 1986 amendment for Nimbus Flat, Nimbus Shoals and Mississippi Bar that was later revised in two separate amendments; a February 1988 amendment for Nimbus Flat and a December 1988 amendment for Nimbus Shoals and Mississippi Bar. Additionally there was a 1996 amendment for Negro Bar, Willow Creek and Beal's Point.

4.2.1.1 Purpose and Vision

The management of Folsom Lake SRA is a balance of providing outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities and protecting and managing natural and cultural resources. Given the time and the context in which it was prepared, the current Plan tends to place greater emphasis on introducing and expanding upon the recreation opportunities offered in the State Recreation Area. Since the plan was written in 1979, much of the management direction, particularly specific improvements, has been implemented.

4.2.1.2 Key Issues

The key issues have been identified through public involvement and by the current planning team. These are issues for which there is a substantial amount of public interest or controversy or issues which the lead agencies identified as important in the development of this management plan. Some of these key issues are a result of circumstances that did not exist or were quite different from when the current General Plan was prepared more than 25 years ago. The following section describes the relationship of the current General Plan to the identified issues.

The Park and Reservoir Operations

Current operational requirements related to the reservoir's flood control and water supply requirements are significantly different than they were 25 years ago. For instance, the proposals to raise Folsom Dam to increase flood protection and the associated implications for factors such as inundation during storm events and demand for borrow material were not contemplated in the 1979 plan. While the current Joint Federal Project and other flood protection projects are fully analyzed in separate CEQA/NEPA environmental analysis, these significant projects can have long term implications for management of the SRA.

In the current 1979 plan reservoir operations are noted as are issues related to reservoir levels and operations – specifically the effect on recreation use including:

- Increasing boating capacity levels by increasing the boating density from an estimated one operating boat for every 26 surface acres to one boat for every 16 surface acres;
- Water access for non-boat owners via increased boat rentals and excursion ferry rides; and
- The effects of the proposed Auburn Dam on lake levels and how that will impact recreation use on Folsom.

The Future of Mississippi Bar

Twenty six years ago when the current plan was written, the focus was on phasing out the commercial gravel operations that occupied much of Mississippi Bar and converting the area to recreation use. The provision of greater protection of natural and cultural resources, and expansion of recreational opportunities were not anticipated or addressed in any detail. With the exception of 100 picnic sites which have not been developed, most of the 1979 Plan management direction for the area has been implemented, with little pertinent direction for the future.

Trails

Trail use and the SRA's trail system have grown substantially since the Plan was originally written. The encroachment of urban development has contributed significantly to the number of people who regularly use SRA trails, and the increase in popularity in both road and mountain biking have created new sets of management concerns that did not exist 25 years ago. As it is, the current plan provides limited direction on the management or development of the trail system. The 1979 plan identified the following issues:

- The extension of the paved bicycle trail to Granite Bay as an area of significant public agreement;
- The inadequacy of the trail system at Folsom and need for more complete trail access around the Lake;
- The need for access to inaccessible beaches with a bicycle trail and to connect major park units with a bicycle trail;
- The need for a continuous riding and hiking trail system around Folsom Lake; and
- The need for bicycle rentals.

Marina Capacity

The current plan envisions significantly more marina facilities than currently exist. In addition to the facilities in Brown's Ravine, the Plan calls for the creation of a new 200-slip marina and associated facilities at Dike 5, which was the location of the original marina at Folsom Lake that subsequently was closed due to low water conditions.

Traffic Congestion at Major Day-use Areas

Although traffic congestion was much less of an issue when the current plan was written, the plan does identify that, on major summer weekends, parking areas fill beyond capacity and traffic congestion on Douglas Boulevard was a "serious problem." The primary management actions have been improvements to the entrance stations at Beal's Point and Granite Bay and access improvements at Folsom Point to better manage traffic during peak use periods.

The plan discusses the possibility of reducing the impact of automobile traffic accessing the park in broad and wide terms, including an objective to encourage non-automobile transportation to and within the park. The plan also calls for development of a second north entrance station to Granite Bay to help resolve traffic congestion and recommends not expanding facilities until traffic congestion is resolved.

Camping

Viewed as a more rural area when the plan was prepared, camping was seen as an appropriate use and in demand in the SRA. Numerous actions are proposed to expand and enhance camping opportunities in the SRA, including improvements and new camping facilities at Negro Bar, Beal's Point, North Fork Shore, Peninsula, and El Dorado Shore.

Urban/Wildland Interface

Urban development immediately adjacent to the SRA was much less when the current plan was prepared, but was still identified as an issue. The plan discusses the fact that residential encroachment is reducing opportunities for land acquisition and restricts automobile access to external public streets. Issues related to the urban/wildland interface were less prominent, and no significant management direction addresses the issue.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Off-road vehicle use along the shoreline is identified as an issue, and management direction is provided to restrict vehicle to designated roadways, especially in the Granite Bay North and Rattlesnake Bar areas.

Whitewater Course

Whitewater kayaking was not as popular as it is now when the existing 1979 plan was prepared. The plan does not address the idea of a whitewater kayaking course at Nimbus. However, the plan does identify Nimbus Shoals as a canoe and raft put-in and calls for improvements to this river access point. The plan also calls for improvements to be made to river access facilities at Salmon Falls to accommodate whitewater rafting use. The facilities called for in the plan at Salmon Falls have been developed.

Folsom Lake Quiet Day

Excessive noise from “drag boats” on Folsom Lake is identified as a key issue in the current plan, but the concept of instituting “quiet days” (periods during which motorized boat use is prohibited) to mitigate noise is not discussed. No direction is provided on how to address the issue of boating noise on Folsom Lake, although the issue is addressed for Lake Natoma where the “5 miles per hour – no wake” concept is recommended.

State Indian Museum

The current plan reserves the Museum Flat area along the Natoma Shore South for possible development of a State Indian Museum.

4.2.1.3 Management Zones/Land Use Classifications

The current General Plan provides unit-wide and area-specific management direction but does not employ a formal system of land use classifications or geographically define management zones. Area-specific management direction is focused on key recreation use and facility areas, with not all portions of the SRA receiving area-specific management direction.

Even though the current plan does not use management zones and land use classification, land use classifications have been assigned for all of the management zones to reflect the existing conditions and use in the No Action Alternative to facilitate comparison of the current plan with the Draft Plan and alternatives. This information can be found in the tables Comparing Land Use Classifications by Designation (Table 2.A) and Acreage (Table 2.B).

4.2.1.4 Park-wide Management Goals and Guidelines

The current General Plan includes the following key park-wide management goals or guidelines.

Visitor Services

- Aquatic Recreation: Marina capacity to be expanded by adding a second marina on Folsom Lake; Boating opportunities for non-boat owners increased via additional boat rentals and excursion ferry service; Whitewater rafting experience enhanced through the addition of parking and raft take-out facilities at Salmon Falls; Visitor access to lake enhanced through development of new swim beaches and creation of new access points; New lake edge use area at Mississippi Bar with creation of warm water lagoons and channels for swimming, canoeing, and sailing.
- Upland Recreation: Camping capacity would be almost doubled; A riding and hiking trail would be developed around the entire lake; Day use areas to be enhanced but not expanded until vehicle access issues resolved; A new State Indian Museum to be located on bluff adjacent to Lake Natoma.

Park Operations

- Enhancements to existing facilities are proposed as a strategy to increase public appreciation of the unit and reduce vandalism and damage to resources.
- Improvements to the circulation system and removal of unnecessary dirt roads and parking areas are proposed as a strategy to ease many of the existing circulation problems.
- Upgrades to existing facilities, acquisition of new land, and development of new facilities will require additional Operation and Maintenance (O&M) budget to support increased workload.

Visitor Capacity

- Allows for an increase in boating densities on Folsom Lake from 1 boat/26 water surface acres to 1 boat/16 water surface acres, and maintain boating densities on Lake Natoma at 1 boat/4 water surface acres (which was deemed acceptable given the low speed limits and types of boating use).
- Calls for an increase of approximately double in parking capacity on Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma from 3,120 to 6,520 vehicles.
- Calls for an increase in camping sites (automobile, bicycle, and boat) from 160 to 370.
- Calls for construction of a new 200-slip marina on the west shore.
- Calls for the addition of 10 miles of hiking & equestrian trails and 9 miles of bicycle trails.

Vegetation Management

- Protect and enhance important natural values for public enjoyment. Vegetation management programs will guide plant succession and may include prescribed burning and elimination of invasive exotic species.
- State Parks will determine extent and status of any rare and endangered plant species and take steps to protect and enhance their populations. Vernal pools will be protected.
- Prescribed burning may be used as a substitute for natural fires to achieve vegetation, fuel reduction, scenic, and wildlife management objectives. Burning is not permitted in riparian zones, in or near developed areas, or in areas proposed for future development.
- Fire and fuel breaks should be constructed and maintained in accordance with Department guidelines. Hand methods are to be emphasized.

Cultural Resource Management

- Identify and map areas of cultural significance.
- Zones of Highly Significant Sites:
 - Preserve and protect all sites;
 - Future development to eliminate direct/indirect impacts;
 - Stabilization of remains only to prevent loss/deterioration;
 - Periodic patrol by Parks personnel; and
 - Reclassify resources if justified by further study.
- Zones of Moderately Significant Sites:
 - Future development to minimize direct/indirect impacts;
 - Qualified archaeologist and Native American community consulted before anticipated activities implemented;
 - Projects may impact sites only if proven necessary to fulfill overriding public need, if acceptable to Native American community, and if professionally studied to ensure preservation; and
 - Reclassify resources if justified by further study.
- Other Areas:
 - Periodically update/complete inventories of areas not physically investigated; and
 - New Native American resources identified or other historic significance will be classified and managed as appropriate.

Wildlife Management

- Manage and protect wildlife and their habitat for public enjoyment. Habitat manipulation may be carried for the purposes of achieving wildlife objectives, ecological management, fire management and scenic management.
- State Parks will determine extent and status of any rare and endangered animal species and take steps to protect and enhance their populations. Vernal pools will be protected.
- Protect wetlands by prohibiting development within 100 feet, except for foot trails or enhancement facilities.

Watershed and Water Quality Management

- Maintain the quality of all waters in the park by: install adequate sewage treatment/disposal facilities, including self-contained boat sewage storage units; control soil erosion; regulate and control of fuel-powered watercraft; avoid of contamination by lethal substances (such as pesticides); regulate of use intensity in areas where water quality monitoring indicates the need.

Visual Resource Management

- Maintain and enhance scenic quality by: review and evaluate new facilities for visual impact; mitigate/eliminate existing features and intrusions that degrade scenic quality; acquire land for purposes of scenic value; enhance park entrance at Nimbus Flat.
- Landscape management program to erase, ameliorate, or conceal the scars and visual impact of structures, facilities, and construction activities which impinge on the natural scene.

Unitwide Interpretation

- Interpretive Theme: “The Saga of Human Involvement with the Changing Landscape of the American River From Prehistoric Times to the Present.”
- Recommendations: develop State Indian Museum; interpret ecological, archaeological, historical, and geological features *vis-a-vis* gold mining and Indian life along the American River and the gold rush era; restoration, interpretation, and upgrading of public support facilities at Folsom Powerhouse; Mormon Island Wetlands Preserve waterfowl interpretation; develop small orientation/interpretation center.

4.2.1.5 Specific Area Goals and Guidelines

Nimbus Dam

The current plan does not directly address Nimbus Dam.

Nimbus Flat/Shoals

The existing General Plan addresses Nimbus Shoals and Nimbus Flat separately. At Nimbus Shoals, the existing General Plan direction includes the addition of a 40-space parking area, which has been completed, and improved river access and raft put-in, which has not been completed. In addition the 1988 amendment to the General Plan for Nimbus Shoals provided the direction for the first California State University Sacramento (CSUS) Aquatic Center facilities and additional public use facilities which have since been implemented.

At Nimbus Flat the plan calls for a number of improvements, all of which have been implemented. These include an expansion and upgrade of the picnic area (new picnic sites, shade trees/turf, drinking water, restrooms, parking); bicycle trail improvements and connection to the parking lot; an upgrade of the entrance road aesthetics (realignment and landscaping/planting), and discouragement of through traffic to staff residences. The existing facilities include picnic tables/barbeques; 2 restrooms; an unguarded swim beach; 3 boat launch lanes; 2 docks; multi-use trail access; 230 day use parking spaces; and the CSUS Aquatic Center.

Lake Overlook

The focus of the current plan is on improving access and views from Lake Overlook. The four key actions recommended include relocating the hazardous (steep) hiking trail down to Nimbus Shoals, creating a paved parking area (40 spaces) that doubles as trail staging area, relocating the security fencing down slope to preserve views, and adding 10 picnic sites and toilets. Of the four, only the parking area improvements have been implemented.

Mississippi Bar

The focus of the current plan is on phasing out the commercial gravel operations and converting the area to recreation use. The majority of the recommended actions have been implemented. The paved bicycle trail extends through the area, connecting to pedestrian and equestrian trails, and the lagoons and channels provide opportunities for paddling and swimming. The other existing facility is the Shadow Glen equestrian stables concession. The 100 picnic sites called for in the current plan have not been constructed.

Negro Bar

The focus of the current plan is on improving the recreation opportunities at Negro Bar by upgrading the campsite and day use facilities. Recommended improvements include enhanced trail connections, new picnic sites, restrooms, showers, paved parking, sand beach, tree/turf planting on field area, and a safety fence along top of Lake Natoma Bluffs. The plan also recommends conversion of excess launch parking area to trail staging area. All of these improvements have been implemented with the exception of the addition of the showers and the conversion of the excess parking area. Existing facilities include picnic tables/barbeques; unguarded swim beach; 96 day use parking spaces; 3 restrooms; boating equipment rental; 2 launch lanes; 300 launch parking spaces; 3 group campsites; and trail access.

A 1996 amendment to the General Plan provides additional direction for Negro Bar (and Willow Creek and Beal's Point). At Negro Bar direction is provided to eliminate the existing 20 campsite family campground and relocate it to Beal's Point and to reduce and reconfigure the boat launch parking area.

Natoma Canyon

The current General Plan does not provide any specific management direction relating to the Natoma Canyon area. Existing facilities are limited to trail access.

Folsom Powerhouse

The existing General Plan calls for an upgrade of facilities, including restoration of the Powerhouse and grounds for interpretation, expanding the parking, and adding restrooms and picnic facilities. Other actions include improving lake access and adding a boat dock, extending a pedestrian/equestrian trail to Nimbus Flat and completing trail connections to the City's trail system, and acquiring land to accommodate 80 new parking spaces. All of these actions have been implemented with the exception of the boat dock and the acquisition of land to expand the parking. The 1979 plan also called for a safe and well-defined pedestrian link between Old Town Folsom parking areas and the Powerhouse, which has not been achieved. Existing facilities at the Powerhouse include the Powerhouse museum, gift shop, restrooms and drinking water, picnic tables, trail access, 35 parking spaces, and the approved, but not yet constructed, visitor center.

The Powerhouse was not designated as a State Historic Park when the 1979 plan was adopted. Its designation as a separate SHP in 1995, resulted in a change in management emphasis to greater protection and interpretation of the area's historic structures.

Natoma Shore North

The existing General Plan direction calls for the creation of a pedestrian/equestrian trail between Folsom Powerhouse and Nimbus Flat. This trail has been implemented.

Natoma Shore South

The existing General Plan direction calls for an upgrade of the Willow Creek day use area including: adding a turn lane on Folsom Boulevard, creating a defined parking area, and increasing the number of picnic sites to 15. The General Plan also calls for the possible development of a State Indian Museum at Museum Flat and the addition of a bicycle trail to Museum Flat from Nimbus Flat with connection to Folsom Boulevard. The day use improvements to Willow Creek have been partially implemented with existing facilities including 4 picnic tables; 1 launch lane; toilets; trail access; and 20 paved parking spaces and an equal amount of unpaved parking. No improvements have been made to the Museum Flat area. A paved bicycle trail through the area has been developed.

Alder Creek/Pond

The current General Plan does not provide any specific management direction relating to the Alder Creek/Pond area. Existing facilities are limited to trail access.

Lower Lake Natoma (Aquatic)

The existing General Plan direction for Lower Lake Natoma includes down-zoning the speed limit from 20 mph to 5 mph and banning powerboat races for a trial period, and if successful to permanently adopt the 5 mph limit and the ban on powerboat races. Both measures were tested and have been implemented.

Upper Lake Natoma (Aquatic)

The existing General Plan direction for Upper Lake Natoma includes down-zoning the speed limit from 20 mph to 5 mph and banning powerboat races for a trial period, and if successful to permanently adopt the 5 mph limit and the ban on powerboat races. Both measures were tested and have been implemented.

Beal's Point

The focus of the existing General Plan direction is on upgrading the recreation facilities and improving access to the popular Beal's Point area. The improvements called for include: an upgrade of the beach area (500 parking spaces, shade trees, beach sand, turf, restrooms, picnic sites, bike trail connection, snack bar, rental concessions, lifeguard tower), an upgrade of the camping area (20 family campsites and restroom; 20 bicycle campsites, relocate/level campsites, showers, RV sanitation, security fencing along Auburn-Folsom Rd.), an upgrade

of the entrance station (add access lane, enlarge entrance station), and launch ramp maintenance. The majority of these improvements have been implemented. The existing facilities include: 69 campsites; 5 restrooms; showers; RV sanitary station; guarded swim beach; snack bar/beach equipment rental; 1 launch lane; picnic tables/barbeques; trail access; and 387 day use parking spaces.

Mooney Ridge

The existing General Plan direction calls for significant recreation-related improvements to Mooney Ridge that have never been implemented. These improvements include: an upgrade of beaches (minor grading), and the addition of a 200-slip marina, 2 launch lanes, a snack bar/marine provision concession, boating equipment rentals, a fueling station, an excursion ferry, 250 parking spaces, an operations dock/office, restrooms, a bicycle trail, bike lock/hitch areas, and a park fence. The only existing facility is a multi-use trail corridor. The Plan also calls for extending the paved trail to Granite Bay.

Granite Bay South

The focus of the existing General Plan direction is on upgrading the recreation facilities and improving access to the popular Granite Bay area. The improvements called for include: an upgrade of the Granite Beach area (tree planting at picnic/parking area, swim floats, bicycle/umbrella/floatable equipment rental, extend beach and add sand, 100 group picnic sites, restrooms, water, lifeguard towers, and a beach trail); an upgrade of the launch area (boarding floats at 2-lane and 12-lane ramps); the extension of Granite Beach to Oak Point (add sand, 700 parking spaces, turf/planting, 200 family/group picnic sites, snack bar/equipment rental, restrooms/water, lifeguard tower); and the addition of new facilities including restrooms, water fountains, pay phones at 2-lane ramp; a paved bike trail from Beal's Point; a shaded path between Main Beach and Bender's Beach; 500 cook stoves for picnic sites; a new park entrance; enhancement of the parking area south of day use lot, and a floating restroom. Many of these improvements have been implemented. Existing facilities include: 42 launch lanes, 1,110 launch parking spaces, 5 restrooms, a swim beach, lifeguard tower, snack bar/beach and boating equipment rental, picnic tables/barbeques, activity center, trail access, and 677 day use parking spaces.

Granite Bay North

Current General Plan direction calls for improvements to enhance access to the area, including the addition of 250 parking spaces, and picnic stoves to the Oak Point/Dotons area, and the addition of a formal parking area (50 spaces) with turnaround to Beeks Bight. Restricting vehicles to paved areas is identified as a key management objective. The improvements to Beeks Bight have been implemented but not all of those recommended for

Oak Point/Dotons. The existing facilities include an equestrian staging area, toilets, trail access, picnic tables, and informal vehicle parking areas.

Placer Shore South

The current General Plan does not provide any specific management direction relating to the Placer Shore South area. Existing facilities are limited to hiking/pedestrian trails and trail access.

Rattlesnake Bar

Current General Plan direction calls for improvements to enhance recreation facilities in the area. A number of those improvements have been implemented, including upgrading 100 parking spaces, paving roads (including paving access to launch ramp and to just below high water), and addition of an entrance station and a boarding float at launch ramp.

Improvements called for that have not been completed include the addition of 100 picnic tables, a trail camp, staff residence, and floating restroom, and upgrades to the equestrian staging area (water, picnic tables, paved parking, watering troughs, hitching posts). Existing facilities at Rattlesnake Bar include 2 launch lanes, 94 parking spaces, toilets, and trail access. In addition to physical improvements, restricting vehicles to paved areas is identified as a key management objective.

North Fork Shore

Current General Plan direction is to maintain the “wild” and generally undeveloped character in the upper arms of the Lake. The plan also identifies improvements to enhance aquatic recreation and camping in the area, including: adding a car-top launch and formal parking area with 15 spaces at Old Rattlesnake Road, converting 30 day-use boat-in sites at Wild Goose Flat to 10 boat-in campsites, and adding 30 new boat-in campsites, emergency access, drinking water, and a boarding float. Existing facilities are limited to trail access.

Anderson Island

Anderson Island was proposed, evaluated and designated as a natural preserve in 1974 – prior to the adoptions of the 1979 General Plan. The current General Plan does not provide any specific management direction relating to Anderson Island. There are no existing facilities.

Peninsula

Current General Plan direction is to maintain the “wild,” low intensity character of the Peninsula. The plan calls for a number of improvements to enhance both day use and camping in the area. These improvements include upgrading the campground by adding showers, an RV sanitary station, sand at swimming area, and a boarding float. Improvements also include upgrading the day use area by upgrading 10 picnic sites and adding 200 new picnic sites and beach at Pumphouse Point, a loop pedestrian/equestrian trail, a trail staging area (15 vehicles), and a trail camp. Of these identified improvements, only the upgrade of the 10 picnic sites has been completed. Existing facilities on the Peninsula currently include 104 campsites, 5 restrooms, 2 launch lanes, 50 launch parking spaces, 60 day use parking spaces, and trail access. An upgraded restroom facility at the campground with showers has been funded and is currently being planned.

Darrington

The current General Plan does not provide any specific management direction relating to the Darrington area. The Darrington Trail is the only existing facility.

Skunk Hollow/Salmon Falls

Current General Plan direction is to maintain the “wild” and generally undeveloped character in the upper arms of the Lake, which would include the area upstream of the Salmon Falls/Skunk Hollow facilities. The plan also calls for improvements to enhance day use (particularly rafting) in the area. These improvements include adding toilets, 60 parking spaces and loading area, and working with El Dorado County to include a pedestrian/equestrian trail facility on the existing Salmon Falls bridge. Except for the trail facility on the bridge, these improvements have been implemented. Existing facilities currently include: 37 parking spaces, toilets, picnic tables, trail access, and raft drying rails at Skunk Hollow; and 45 parking spaces, loading area, toilets, and trail access at Salmon Falls. The Darrington Trailhead and parking area, which includes parking for 20 vehicles and undeveloped trailhead, is also in this zone.

El Dorado Shore

Current General Plan direction calls for improvements to enhance day use (particularly boating and trail use) in the area. These proposed improvements include reconstructing lake access and 15 parking spaces, a car-top launch, and toilets at Old Salmon Falls (complete); adding 30 parking spaces and toilets at Sweetwater Creek; and adding 80 campsites, an RV sanitary station, boat dock, boat camping, swim beach with restrooms, and trail staging area at New York Creek/Monte Vista. Of these improvements the only ones completed are those

at Old Salmon Falls where existing facilities include 15 parking spaces, an equestrian staging area, toilets, and trail access.

Brown's Ravine

Current General Plan direction calls for improvements to enhance day use (particularly boating) in the area. These improvements include adding: dry boat storage and a repair building, 100 additional slips for boat rentals, 100 parking spaces, an office/storage building for lake patrol, and restrooms. The current Plan also calls for upgrades to Hobie Cove including formalizing parking, adding toilets, and paving access to just below high water. Of these improvements, only those to Hobie Cove, and the parking and restrooms have been completed. Non-boating related improvements identified in the Plan include upgrading trails, providing a trail staging area, and adding a turf picnic area with 30 tables. All of these improvements have been completed. Existing facilities at Brown's Ravine currently include: 685 wet slips, 175 dry slips, 7 launch lanes, 603 launch parking spaces, 2 restrooms, a snack bar/marine provisions, a fuel station, boating equipment rental, picnic tables, a trail staging area and trail access, and 122 day-use parking spaces.

Mormon Island Cove

Current General Plan direction calls for a trailhead with 50 parking spaces, upgrades to the trail, and the addition of restrooms and 30 picnic sites. The trailhead and parking have been implemented at Mormon Island Cove, but the picnic sites, restrooms and trail upgrades have not.

Mormon Island Wetlands Natural Preserve

Current General Plan direction calls for an extension of the State's lease with Reclamation for the wetland preserve area and the addition of an interpretive trail, observation blinds, 15 parking spaces, and provision for ranger-led access only. The area has been incorporated into Folsom Lake SRA and was designated as a Natural Preserve by State Parks in 1992. The only existing facilities are several signs and a boardwalk trail through the area.

Folsom Point

Current General Plan direction calls for improvements to enhance day use at Folsom Point and Observation Point. Improvements identified for Folsom Point include upgrading the day use area (paving parking bays and adding sand, water, restrooms, and picnic sites), upgrading the launch area (circulation improvements, pre-launch ready area, and boarding float), improving access from Green Valley Road (East Natoma Street), and adding 2 launch lanes and 82 parking spaces. All of these improvements have been implemented.

Improvements identified for Observation Point include improving access from Folsom Dam

Road (left-turn pocket and deceleration lane), converting a portion of the parking area to planted picnic area, and adding a visitor orientation/interpretation building, restrooms, and a view restaurant (including a snack bar, viewing deck, and boat dock). Only the access improvements from Folsom Dam Road have been implemented. Existing facilities include: 4 launch lanes, 130 launch parking spaces, launch area restrooms, picnic tables/ barbeques, toilets, 77 day use parking spaces, and trail access.

Folsom Dam

The current General Plan does not provide any specific management direction relating to Folsom Dam. The American River Water Education Center (ARWEC) is located in the Folsom Dam management zone and Reclamation provides guided tours of the dam through ARWEC. Both State Parks and Reclamation administrative offices are located in this zone and the primary public contact point for the SRA is located at the State Parks offices in this area. Portions of the paved bikepath between Lake Natoma and Beal's Point also pass through this management zone.

Folsom Lake (Aquatic)

The current plan acknowledges and recommends continuation of two boating use zones on the lake: a "ski zone" on the main body of the Lake up to Rattlesnake Bar on the North Fork and Sweetwater on the South Fork, and a "slow" zone" (i.e., 5 mph – no wake) on the upper portions of both arms. The plan also recommends using the main body of Folsom Lake as a sea plane landing location, which has since been implemented. Sea planes are permitted to land/takeoff at Folsom Lake and are restricted to the center portions of the lake (2000' from shoreline) and to daylight hours and weekdays. No aircraft landings are permitted at lake elevations below 380 feet. There are no existing facilities in this area.

Middle North Fork (Aquatic)

The current plan acknowledges and recommends continuation of two boating use zones on the lake: a "ski zone" on the main body of the Lake up to Rattlesnake Bar on the North Fork and Sweetwater on the South Fork, and a "slow zone" (i.e., 5 mph – no wake) on the upper portions of both arms. The only existing facilities in this area are floating toilets for use by boaters.

Upper North Fork (Aquatic)

The current plan acknowledges and recommends continuation of two boating use zones on the lake: a "ski zone" on the main body of the Lake up to Rattlesnake Bar on the North Fork and Sweetwater on the South Fork, and a "slow zone" (i.e., 5 mph – no wake) on the upper portions of both arms. There are no existing facilities in this area.

Upper South Fork (Aquatic)

The current plan acknowledges and recommends continuation of two boating use zones on the lake: a “ski zone” on the main body of the Lake up to Rattlesnake Bar on the North Fork and Sweetwater on the South Fork, and a “slow zone” (i.e., 5 mph – no wake) on the upper portions of both arms. There are no existing facilities in this area.

Middle South Fork (Aquatic)

The current plan acknowledges and recommends continuation of two boating use zones on the lake: a “ski zone” on the main body of the Lake up to Rattlesnake Bar on the North Fork and Sweetwater on the South Fork, and a “slow zone” (i.e., 5 mph – no wake) on the upper portions of both arms. There are no existing facilities in this area.

4.2.2 Alternative 2: Preferred Alternative

4.2.2.1 Purpose and Vision

Alternative 2, the Preferred Alternative, is a summary of the Draft Plan in Chapter 3. Chapter 3, the Plan, constitutes the project description with the project area purpose and vision, project area-wide goals and guidelines, specific area goals and guidelines, and delineation of management zones.

The management of Folsom Lake SRA is a balance of providing outdoor recreation opportunities and facilities and protecting and managing natural and cultural resources. Alternative 2 is designed to manage the changing conditions that continuously transform the environment while providing opportunities for a wide spectrum of high-quality day use recreational activities. Although much of the content of the Preferred Alternative has been driven by current issues, the intent is that the Plan provide a vision for the future. The Plan allows managers the opportunity to incorporate newly emerging technologies and improved management concepts that provide solutions to current issues and direction for resolving issues that may arise in the future.

4.2.2.2 Key Issues

The key issues have been identified through public involvement and by the planning team. These are issues for which there is a substantial amount of public interest or controversy or issues which the lead agencies identified as important in the development of this management plan. For most of these key issues there are several options or approaches to resolve or address the issue. Articulating these different options to address the key issues was one of the primary means of developing the Draft Plan and a range of alternatives for consideration in the EIS/EIR. Described below is the approach proposed in the Draft Plan to address the key issues by balancing recreation opportunities and facilities with resource conservation.

The Park and Reservoir Operations

- To the extent flood control and dam safety projects require borrow material, where possible promote removal of borrow material from within the Folsom Reservoir area during times of low water and in locations that will benefit recreation uses such as excavating boat launch areas to extend boat ramps.
- Boat launching capacity will be increased at under-served lake levels, including lower lake levels.

The Future of Mississippi Bar

- In portions of the area which remain impacted from the recent past aggregate mining, restore natural drainage patterns and landforms to the extent feasible and restore riparian habitat and riparian woodlands in select portions of the area while also providing for additional recreation opportunities (see below) and protecting and interpreting cultural resources.
- Retain Shadow Glen concession but place emphasis on accommodating trail riding and reducing or eliminating horse boarding.
- Improve Shadow Glen facility to enhance aesthetic quality and resource protection.
- Expand paddling channels and lagoons in areas impacted by aggregate mining.
- Provide opportunity for flycasting and other passive recreation opportunities that can utilize the ponds and lagoons.
- Develop day use facilities, including picnic area(s), restrooms and drinking water at parking area.
- Provide limited vehicle access and parking in previously disturbed portion of the Bar close to corner of Sunset and Main.
- Improve the user trail along Snipes-Pershing Ravine.
- Expand interpretive/nature trails to enhance the public's appreciation of the area's natural and cultural resources.

Trails

- Develop paved Class I bike trails: along Powerhouse Canal to Prison property, from Lake Natoma Inn to trestle bridge, from Mormon Island Cove to Dike 7, from Folsom Point to Mormon Island Cove, support Class 1 trail along new Folsom Dam Bridge to connect Dike 7 and the paved bike path from Lake Natoma to Beal's Point, and around the perimeter of Mormon Island Wetlands Natural Preserve.
- Develop or enhance trailhead facilities at: Lake Overlook, Twin Rocks/Boulder, Los Lagos/Auburn-Folsom Road, Horseshoe Bar Road, Sweetwater Creek, Falcon Crest, Mormon Island Wetlands Natural Preserve, and Folsom Point/Dike 7.
- Formalize and/or upgrade trail facilities at: Lake Overlook, Snipes-Pershing, Folsom Powerhouse, Granite Bay North, Darrington, and Sweetwater Creek/Old Salmon Falls.
- Develop new trails: from Peninsula to proposed North Fork or Auburn-to-Cool trail bridges; and trail connection from Skunk Hollow area to proposed new trail along the South Fork of the American River from Coloma to Folsom Lake.

- Develop a North Fork trail bridge connecting Pioneer Express Trail on Placer County side with proposed new trail on the El Dorado County side of the North Fork Arm of Folsom Lake.
- Explore development of an Auburn-Cool trail bridge in the upper North Fork Arm of Folsom Lake SRA if the preferred siting is within Folsom SRA.

Marina Capacity

- Provide increased marina capacity at Brown's Ravine by increasing slip capacity by roughly 40 percent (260-290 slips) by extending the existing dock system (which may include developing a second breakwater on the west side of the Brown's Ravine inlet).
- Reconfigure marina and Hobie Cove boat ramps to maximize launch capacity and reduce congestion.
- Reconfigure parking area to provide queue lane and turnaround at boat ramp.
- Upgrade storm water system to accommodate increased run off volumes, prevent overflows, and reduce siltation of Brown's Ravine marina basin.

Traffic Congestion at Major Day-use Areas

- Improve design of entrances (e.g., additional entry lanes and stacking area, vehicle turnarounds, emergency vehicle bypass, relocate gatehouse, etc.) at Beal's Point, Granite Bay and Lake Overlook to better manage traffic during peak use periods.
- Utilize satellite parking and shuttle service to accommodate for large special events.

Camping

- Relocate group camping at Negro Bar to Beal's Point.
- Convert a portion of the family campground at Beal's Point to group camping and relocate the family camping to the Peninsula
- Expand camping at the Peninsula Campground by adding 50 to 100 family camping sites and shower facilities.

Urban/Wildland Interface

- Develop a Wildfire Management Plan for the park, consistent with State Parks format and guidelines that coordinates and outlines actions before, during, and after a wildfire.
- Engage adjacent jurisdictions, fire districts and departments in the land use planning and development process to promote land use decisions that do not increase wildfire risk.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

- Provide formalized, designated low water parking areas for day users at high use areas around Folsom Lake. Areas to be considered for designated low water parking include Rattlesnake Bar and Granite Bay North.
- Except in these designated areas, vehicle use will be prohibited outside of designated/delineated roads, parking areas, and/or travel routes. Undesignated access points will be closed and blocked.

Whitewater Course

- Support the creation of water features conducive to whitewater recreation in conjunction with the removal of the in-stream fish diversion structure in the American River below Nimbus Dam.

Folsom Lake Quiet Day

- Rather than establishing formal “quiet days,” the Draft Plan addresses boating noise concerns by extending the 5 mph zone on the North Fork from Mormon Ravine down to Rattlesnake Bar, and monitoring boat noise on Folsom Lake during high use periods to document existing conditions and determine if additional actions are needed.

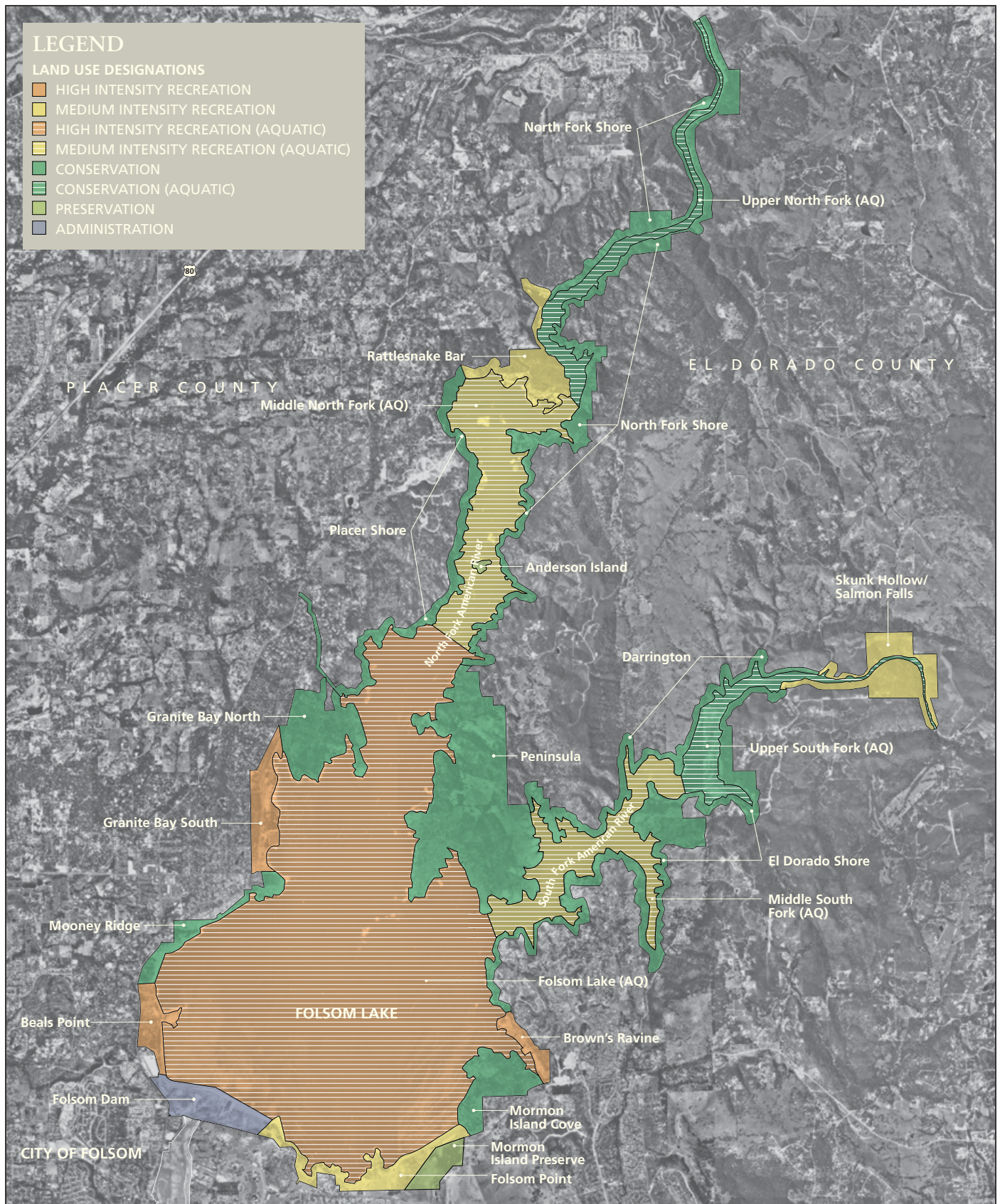
State Indian Museum

- If the State Indian Museum is not located at the site, the area will be maintained as natural open space.

4.2.2.3 Management Zones/Land Use Classifications

The Draft Plan designates 34 geographic management zones, with 12 on Lake Natoma and 22 on Folsom Lake. Each zone has a specific management emphasis and is designated with one of five land use designations: Recreation-High, Recreation-Medium, Conservation, Preservation, or Administration (Figures 2.A and 2.B). The Preferred Alternative includes 12 management zones designated as Recreation, 17 management zones designated as Conservation, 3 management zones designated as Preservation and 2 management zones designated as Administration. Based on area, there would be a management emphasis on recreation for 91% of the aquatic area and 20% of the land area. There would be a management emphasis of conservation for 74% of the land area and 9% of the aquatic area.

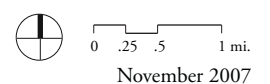
Refer to the tables Comparing Land Use Classifications by Designation (Table 2.A) and Acreage (Table 2.B).

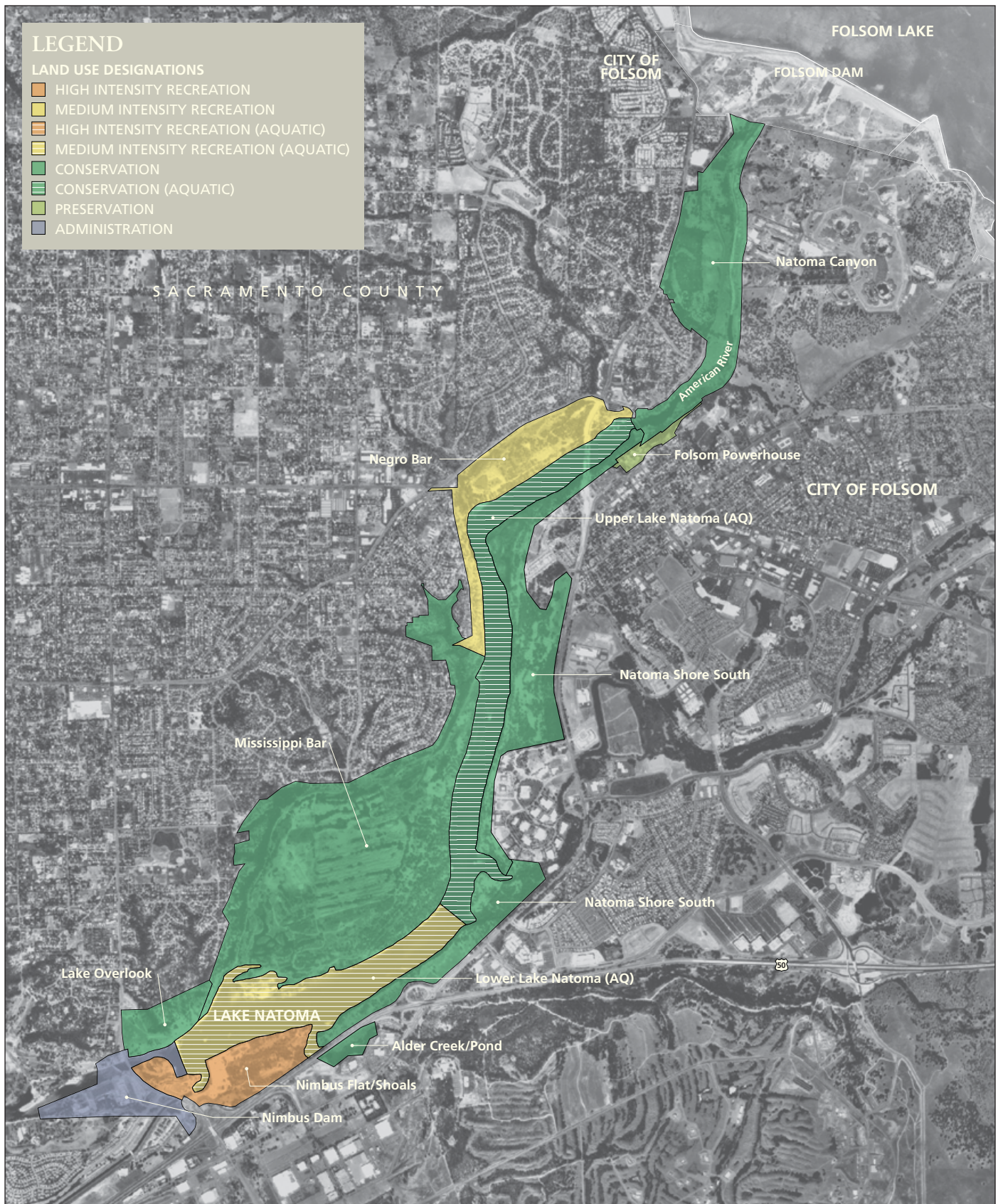


Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park
General Plan/Resource Management Plan

Credit: Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC

Figure 2.A
FOLSOM LAKE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE





Folsom Lake State Recreation Area & Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park
General Plan/Resource Management Plan

Credit: Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC

Figure 2.B
LAKE NATOMA PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

4.2.2.4 Park-wide Management Goals and Guidelines

Visitor Services

- Aquatic Recreation: Increase marina capacity by expanding facilities (up to 340 additional slips) at Brown's Ravine rather than adding a second marina; expand the 5 mph speed zone to the North Fork Arm and phase out use of gasoline engines on Lake Natoma; increase launch capacity by extending ramps on Folsom Lake to serve lower lake levels; increase areas for hand launching of paddling/rowing watercraft on Lake Natoma; improve water access and reduce congestion at whitewater rafting facilities and support the creation of water features conducive to whitewater recreation in the American River below Nimbus Dam as part of replacing the existing fish weir.
- Upland Recreation: Upgrade and enhance existing day use facilities and develop new facilities to accommodate new recreation opportunities and unmet demand; redistribute and redesign existing campsites adjacent to urban areas to ensure a quality natural recreation experience; add a visitor center and additional interpretive and educational facilities; expand trail system to create a continuous loop around Folsom Lake and Lake Natoma; and expand and enhance trail system to accommodate diverse trail uses and abilities.

Park Operations

- Folsom Dam/Reservoir Operations: minimize adverse impacts to recreation, natural, and cultural resources from flood control and dam safety project projects, and pursue mitigation to maximize potential benefits to recreation and resources.
- Employee Housing: Consider adding new employee housing as needed to support maintenance and law enforcement activities to protect visitor health, safety and enjoyment.
- Land Acquisition: Continue to pursue strategic acquisition of contiguous properties in order to protect natural, cultural, and visual resources, and to expand recreation opportunities.
- Off-Road Vehicle Use: Restrict off-road vehicle access to protect natural and cultural resources, enhance visitor experience, and reduce maintenance requirements and enforcement burden.
- Wildfire Management: Reduce risk of wildfires and property loss along the unit's wildland-urban interface and integrate wildfire safety with vegetation management efforts.

- Sustainability: Incorporate sustainable design principles into future park improvements and operations to minimize impacts and conserve resources.
- Accessibility: Provide access to park programs and program areas for all visitors regardless of ability in accordance with State Parks and Reclamation accessibility guidelines and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Visitor Capacity

- The Preferred Alternative calls for a 30-50% increase in marina capacity (200 to 340 slips) at Brown's Ravine instead of the second marina proposed in the current plan.
- The Preferred Alternative generally maintains the boating density range established by the current General Plan, 1 boat for every 10-20 water surface acres for the main body of Folsom Lake.
- The Preferred Alternative calls for the expansion of the trail system beyond that envisioned in the current plan to create a more comprehensive and interconnected system and accommodates the needs of a more diverse user population.
- The Preferred Alternative calls for enhancements and modest increases in camping sites, 50 to 100 new sites at Peninsula.

Vegetation Management

- Develop a long-term invasive exotic plant management plan and implementation program for both natural and disturbed areas in the park. The program will:
 - Build on the Resource Inventory to identify and map invasive species;
 - Prioritize areas for treatment;
 - Recommend methods of treatment, including: manual, biological (grazing/fire), and chemical removal; and
 - Recommend methods of restoration, such as reintroduction of native species.
- Develop and implement vegetation management plans and program for the park that will plan, prioritize, and implement native species restoration.
- Protect threatened and under-protected vegetation communities such as oak woodlands and oak savanna against threats such as sudden oak death syndrome, and limit facility development to avoid or minimize impacts to these under-protected vegetation communities.
- Protect special status plant species that occur within the park:

- As needed conduct field surveys for special status plant species that exist/could exist in the park including: Eldorado bedstraw; Layne's ragwort; Pine Hill ceanothus; Pine Hill flannelbush; Stebbin's morning glory; Orcutt grass, and Sacramento orcutt grass; and
- Implement a prescribed fire program within the park that utilizes the Unit Prescribed Fire Management Plan to set priorities, develop and implement project burn plans and implement other strategies and methods. Prescribed fire within the park will be used primarily to maintain and restore native vegetation communities and to control invasive exotic species. Fuel reduction to reduce wildfire risk is a secondary benefit.

Cultural Resource Management

- Develop and implement a cultural resources management program for prehistoric and historical cultural resources in the park:
 - Complete the survey, inventory, recordation and mapping of cultural resource sites, and completion of Historic Structure Reports, Historic Architectural Plans and Historic Architectural Engineering Reports;
 - Prioritize protection and management actions based on site importance and level of threat;
 - Develop opportunities for interpretation and education, including: suitable themes, formats and programs (guided/self-guided), and facilities (interpretive center, museum, displays/signs); and
 - Collaborate with agencies/groups in management, protection, interpretation, and education.
- Protect and preserve the historic features of the Folsom Powerhouse SHP. Restore historic features in order to insure their continued preservation. Interpret the Powerhouse consistent with the themes identified in the Plan.
- Provide ongoing consultation with local Native American groups consistent with State Parks policy.
- Accommodate a State Indian Museum at Lake Natoma, within resource and site constraints, if this site is selected as the location for a Museum.
- Limit off road vehicle use, particularly below the high pool level, to protect sensitive cultural resources.

- Develop the Negro Bar Cultural Center to interpret the gold mining camps and history of the mid-1800's, with particular emphasis on the African-American miner experience and other represented groups from this era – including Chinese miners. Activities will include living history displays and events, day camps for children and other activities.
- Evaluate the suitability of a portion of the South Fork Arm of Folsom Lake that contains important prehistoric sites for designation as a Cultural Preserve. Develop and implement management strategies and actions to protect these resources. Reclamation approval is required for State land use designations on federal lands.
- Develop and implement plans and strategies, consistent with state and federal laws, to protect and manage museum collection, including:
 - Providing climate controlled storage;
 - Appropriately cataloguing and documenting artifacts; and
 - Interpretation, exhibition, display and public access to collection.

Wildlife Management

- Develop and implement a program for the management and protection of both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in the park.
- Ensure wildlife management and protection plans, programs, and actions are consistent with State Parks goals regarding biodiversity.
- Implement a program to inventory, map, assess, and protect wildlife species consistent with State Parks guidelines and processes and incorporating the priorities identified in the Resource Inventory.
- Protect and restore important, under-protected and sensitive habitat resources, including nesting sites, vernal pools and wetlands, riparian areas and wildlife corridors.
- Monitor, develop and implement protective actions and strategies for heron/egret rookeries and roosting sites at Anderson Island and Mississippi Bar.
- Develop and implement a program to control and manage pest species to protect park resources and public health, including ground squirrels and geese.
- Assess, control, manage and eradicate invasive exotic species, as appropriate and needed to protect park resources. Invasive exotic wildlife include feral cats and bullfrogs.
- Protect special status species that occur within the park:
 - Conduct field surveys to determine presence of special status animal species that may exist in the park including: California horned lizard; burrowing

owl; loggerhead shrike; vernal pool fairy shrimp; tadpole shrimp; Valley elderberry longhorn beetle; Western pond turtle; California red-legged frog; and foothill yellow-legged frog; and

- Collaborate with other agencies, organizations and volunteers on wildlife protection and management activities and programs.

Watershed and Water Quality Management

- Develop and implement a water quality protection program that will:
 - Comply with federal and State water quality regulations and standards; and
 - Protect water quality for water contact recreation, wildlife, vegetation and other natural resource values.
- Develop and implement strategies to address storm-water run-off and pollution from development and sources outside the park boundaries.
- Ensure State Parks actions, facilities and park uses avoid or minimize impacts to water quality.
- Identify, evaluate and address potential sources of pollution including historic gold mining sites, motorized boats, and sewage systems of adjacent jurisdictions.

Visual Resource Management

- Ensure that developed areas of the park avoid or minimize visual impacts by establishing design guidelines for developed area within park unit, including:
 - Building siting, orientation, and design to blend with the surrounding landscape; and
 - Landscape design and planting to soften developed areas, enhance visual quality, and integrate the surrounding native landscape.
- Work with neighboring jurisdictions to protect key visual resources and the park from continued visual intrusion from surrounding development:
 - Encourage land use designations, height restrictions, setback requirements, and ridgeline ordinances that help protect visual resources of the park; and
 - Prioritize areas for protection and enhancement of visual resources, such as Nimbus Flat, Lake Overlook, and Folsom Powerhouse.
- Adopt management methods to protect visual resources in the park, including:
 - Land acquisition to prevent visual intrusion from adjacent development;

- Planting to screen adjacent development and minimize the visual impact of large parking areas, corporation yards, etc.;
- Concealing/relocating temporary storage containers used in several locations by concessionaires;
- Undergrounding/relocating utility lines; and
- Coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions in the review of development adjacent to the park.

Unitwide Interpretation

- Prepare an updated Interpretive Plan for the park.
- The unifying interpretive theme for the Unit is: Water from the American River has offered life and access to power.
- Primary Interpretive Themes include:
 - Wildlife habitats play an important role in the health of the American River Watershed;
 - Native peoples depended on the American River for their way of life;
 - The rush for gold on the American River transformed the region, leaving a legacy that continues to impact California;
 - Water development on the American River powered the growth of communities and altered our society; and
 - Humans have impacted the natural resources of the American River Watershed.
- Interpretation and education will also focus on developing a stewardship ethic and practices among park visitors, neighbors and adjacent communities, and will be delivered through a wide range of methods including brochures, signs, live programs, special events and web-based strategies.
- Key facilities to be developed include the Folsom Powerhouse Visitor Center and the Negro Bar Cultural Center, and the American River Water Education Center, a partnership with Reclamation, will continue to be supported.
- Additional facility needs include a visitor center/information center and a location to focus on the interpretation and education of natural resources and the prehistory of the park.

- Interpretive and education programs will utilize State Parks staff and expertise from other agencies and organizations and volunteers.
- Interpretive and education programs targeting K-12 age groups will be consistent with Department of Education framework and content standards.

4.2.2.5 Specific Area Goals and Guidelines

Nimbus Dam

The land use classification for the Nimbus Dam area would be Administration. In addition to the facility improvements proposed in the current plan, utilize off-site overflow parking for special events and work with DFG on an interpretive program of fish passage/salmonid lifecycle.

Nimbus Flat/Shoals

The land use classification for the Nimbus Flat/Shoals area would be Recreation – High Intensity. The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance the recreation resources of this area and to ensure continued access to Nimbus Flat for park users during special events. Primary management direction includes the creation of water features conducive to whitewater recreation in conjunction with the removal of the fish diversion structure, allowing small boat/hand-launching to American River, aesthetic enhancements (additional lanes and other improvements) to the entrance, evaluating the feasibility of developing a multi-use facility, and ensuring the future Hazel Avenue widening project provides adequate accommodation for trail uses and connections to trails on both sides of the American River below Nimbus Dam. The Draft Plan also supports the Reclamation's development of a naturalized fish passage channel to replace the existing in-stream fish diversion and ladder, prohibiting parking on gravel bar and riparian areas, addressing the nuisance/health problems associated with resident waterfowl, and providing interpretive displays related to the natural resources.

Lake Overlook

The land use classification for Lake Overlook would be Conservation. The management for this zone is to maintain the primary role of the zone in flood control, water supply, power generation, and hatchery operations. Facility improvements include a vista point/viewing platform with interpretive signage, formalization and reconfiguration of the trailhead and parking area, and a new small picnic area with shade ramadas. In addition, vernal pools would be protected and interpreted, adjacent homes would be visually screened with a landscape buffer, and ensuring improved vehicular access from Hazel Avenue as part of the Hazel Avenue widening project.

Mississippi Bar

The land use classification for Mississippi Bar would be Conservation. The management intent for this zone is to expand recreation opportunities while placing greater emphasis on protection and enhancement of resources. Management recommendations for recreation include: retaining the Shadow Glen concession but emphasizing trail riding opportunities and reducing or eliminating horse boarding; improving the Shadow Glen facility to enhance aesthetic quality and resource protection; expanding paddling channels and lagoons in areas previously impacted by aggregate mining; improving the Snipes-Pershing trail; and providing opportunity for passive water-dependent recreation opportunities and day use facilities. Resource-related management actions include: restoring riparian and floodplain habitat, particularly in the flat area where the aggregate mining facility was located; balancing natural restoration with protection and interpretation of mining tailings and cultural resources; retaining culturally significant tailings to interpret mining history; expanding interpretive/nature trails; protecting the rookery area (signage and/or fencing as needed); and protecting and interpreting vernal pool habitat.

Negro Bar

The land use classification for Negro Bar would be Recreation – Medium Intensity. The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance recreation resources while exploring opportunities to restore certain areas to a more natural condition. The Draft Plan shifts the recreation emphasis to day use and away from camping, and supports the enhancement and interpretation of the area's historic/cultural resources. Management recommendations for recreation include: converting the group camping area to a group picnic facility; relocating the group camping facilities elsewhere in the park; removing/reducing pavement in parking area above boat ramp and adjacent to group camping area; restoring Rainbow Rocks area by removing pavement and improving water access; providing an additional low dock at boat ramp for hand launching of canoes and kayaks, installing a restroom and other improvements to the boat launch area. Other management recommendations include: developing a Negro Bar Cultural Center, including a possible small amphitheater, to interpret the history of Gold Rush era mining camps and in particular the experience of African-American miners; and expanding the interpretive displays related to the area's mining, bridges and geologic formations.

Natoma Canyon

The land use classification for Natoma Canyon would be Conservation. The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance the natural scenic character of the area, improve trail connectivity, and expand opportunities for interpretation and education. Management actions in the Draft Plan include providing a Class I bike path along

Powerhouse Canal to the prison property (eventually connecting to Dike 7), and providing interpretive displays related to features such as the old Folsom Dam site and the Olive Grove.

Folsom Powerhouse

The land use classification for the Folsom Powerhouse would be Preservation. The management intent for this zone is to preserve, protect, and interpret the Powerhouse site and grounds. Management actions in the Draft Plan generally mirror and build on those in the current plan including building the new visitor center, improving and expanding parking, enhancing picnic areas, and continuing to restore Powerhouse structures and machinery as appropriate. Proposals for trail facilities include: formalizing and upgrading trails in natural areas of the SHP, adding a Class I bike path between Lake Natoma Inn and trestle trail bridge upstream of Rainbow Bridge (gap closure), and adding a Class I bike path along Powerhouse Canal to Prison Property (eventual connection to Dike 7). New management direction is provided to address security and vandalism problems and to provide aesthetic enhancements, including providing landscape screening between parking lot and Riley Street.

Natoma Shore North

The land use classification for Natoma Shore North would be Conservation. The management intent for this zone is to maintain its role as a natural and scenic link for trail users between the northern and southern areas of Lake Natoma. Management direction in the Draft Plan addresses issues such as resource impacts related to shoreline erosion and disturbance of the rookery in the area and public safety issues related to the rope swings and jumping from cliffs and rock outcrops.

Natoma Shore South

The land use classification for Natoma Shore South would be Conservation. The management intent for this zone is to maintain its role as a natural and scenic link for trail users between the northern and southern areas of Lake Natoma, enhancing the recreation resources of the area, and providing the potential for an interpretive facility of statewide importance. Management direction in the Draft Plan calls for day use facilities to be enhanced and upgraded, including improvements to the picnic area, parking area, boat access to water, and the addition of interpretive displays related to the heron rookery and mining history. As in the current General Plan, the Museum Flat area is reserved as potential site for State Indian Museum, with the area to be retained as a natural area if Museum is located elsewhere.

Alder Creek/Pond

The land use classification for Alder Creek/Pond would be Conservation. The management intent for this zone is to restore Alder Creek and Pond to a healthy, functioning natural riparian ecosystem while reducing water quality concerns for both wildlife and humans. Management direction in the Draft Plan focuses restoring the quality of the resources associated with Alder Creek/Pond, including exploration of efforts to restore the creek and pond, continued resource management efforts to control invasive exotic plant species (water hyacinth/duck weed), and work with adjacent landowners to manage storm water runoff and improve water quality.

Lower Lake Natoma (Aquatic)

The land use classification for Lower Lake Natoma would be Recreation – Medium Intensity. The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance the area as a premier rowing and paddling destination while providing a serene and scenic setting. Management direction in the Draft Plan focuses on enhancing the quality of recreation experience by phasing out the use of gas engines on all of Lake Natoma and limiting motorized use to electric motors for public use. Until cleaner alternatives can be implemented, exceptions will be allowed for CSUS Aquatic Center instruction and coaching boats, State Parks patrol boats, and other administrative purposes on a case by case basis.

Upper Lake Natoma (Aquatic)

The land use classification for Upper Lake Natoma would be Conservation. The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance the area as a premier rowing and paddling destination while providing a serene and scenic setting. Management direction would be the same as that provided for Lower Lake Natoma above.

Beal's Point

The land use classification for Beal's Point would be Recreation – High Intensity. Management intent for this zone in the Draft Plan focuses on enhancing the quality of recreation experience by improving visitor access and camping facilities. The vehicle entrance will be reconfigured to relieve traffic congestion on entrance road and reduce backups onto Auburn-Folsom Road. Improvements may include additional entry lanes and stacking area, a new entrance station/kiosk, and a vehicle turnaround. A portion of the family campground on the south side of the entrance road will be converted to group camping, including possible conversion of the campfire center into a pavilion to support the group camping experience. The family camping capacity lost at Beal's Point will be shifted to other locations within the park. Beal's Point is also identified as a possible location for a State Parks boat dock.

Mooney Ridge

The land use classification for Mooney Ridge would be Conservation. Unlike the current plan which proposes the development of a marina and other associated recreational facilities, the management intent for this zone in the Draft Plan focuses on maintaining the area's role as a scenic link for trail users between the heavily used Beal's Point and Granite Bay day use areas. Management direction is to ensure adequate connections to other regional trails, including Placer County trail system. Conservation-oriented management recommendations include: managing oak woodlands and grasslands to protect special status species and improving the vegetative cover to enhance the utility of lake shoreline wildlife corridors.

Granite Bay South

The land use classification for Granite Bay South would be Recreation – High Intensity. The management intent for this zone in the Draft Plan focuses on maintaining and enhancing day-use recreation resources in this heavily used area while exploring opportunities to reduce congestion. Management recommendations include: reconfiguring the vehicle entrance area from the entry gate to parking lot entries to relieve congestion and reduce backups along Douglas Boulevard; reconfiguring the entire boat launch complex to improve launch efficiency at all lake levels and to increase launch capacity at high lake levels above 450' elevation and lower lake levels below 420' elevation; reconfiguring and landscaping the main beach parking area to improve aesthetics and control vehicle speed; developing a lifeguard tower with classrooms and storage; replacing the existing Activity Center with an expanded and improved facility; providing a dry boat storage facility for on-site storage of concessionaire and State Parks watercraft; and possibly adding a State Parks boat dock.

Granite Bay North

The land use classification for Granite Bay North would be Conservation. The management intent for this zone is to maintain its role as an easily accessible and less developed day-use recreation area within a predominantly natural setting. Recreation-related management recommendations include formalizing a small trailhead at Twin Rocks/Boulder; designating/upgrading trails on newly acquired property; providing low water access and parking in limited locations; and, adding interpretive displays relating to the area's natural and cultural resources. Vehicle use will be prohibited outside designated roads and parking areas and direction is provided to explore the potential to provide additional staff housing at Granite Bay North or Rattlesnake Bar to improve operational response to this area of park.

Placer Shore

The land use classification for Placer Shore would be Conservation. The management intent is to maintain this zone as a natural and scenic link for trail users between Granite Bay and Rattlesnake Bar. Management direction includes exploring potential to formalize a trailhead at the end of Horseshoe Bar Road on Placer County side.

Rattlesnake Bar

The land use classification for Rattlesnake Bar would be Recreation – Medium Intensity. The management intent for this zone is to enhance the recreation and natural resources by providing high quality facilities that will expand opportunities for interpretation, education, and resource management. Management recommendations for recreation include: providing low water access and parking in limited locations (including the potential to extend boat ramp into Folsom Lake to improve launching access at low water); developing picnic facilities, including group picnic areas, with shade ramadas, vault toilets, and landscaping; and providing interpretive/nature trail to Avery's Pond. Vehicle use will be prohibited outside designated roads and parking areas and direction is provided to explore the potential to provide additional staff housing at Rattlesnake Bar to improve operational response to this area of park.

North Fork Shore

The land use classification for North Fork Shore would be Conservation. The management intent is to maintain this zone as a natural and scenic link for trail users between the Folsom SRA and Auburn SRA. Management recommendations for recreation include: constructing a North Fork trail bridge that connects Pioneer Express trail on Placer County side with proposed trail on El Dorado County side; constructing an Auburn-to-Cool trail bridge (if siting within Folsom SRA is preferred); and providing a new trail from Peninsula to the proposed North Fork trail bridge or the potential Auburn-to-Cool trail bridge.

Anderson Island

The land use classification for Anderson Island would be Preservation. The management intent is to maintain and protect Anderson Island as a nesting and roosting site for herons, egrets and other wading birds. Consistent with its designation as a Natural Preserve, management direction is to protect the heron/egret rookery from disturbance by public use and implement protective measures as necessary.

Peninsula

The land use classification for the Peninsula would be Conservation. The management intent is to maintain the natural and scenic character of the area while enhancing overnight

and day-use recreation resources and expanding opportunities for interpretation, education, and resource management. Recommended facilities and improvements focus on overnight visitors. Management recommendations for recreation include: expanding the campground by 50 to 100 campsites; adding shower facilities; developing and improving trailhead facilities for existing and proposed trails in the area; formalizing/converting abandoned roadways for trail use; and adding interpretive displays regarding natural resources and geology. The Draft Plan also recommends maintaining and upgrading the staff housing.

Darrington

The land use classification for Darrington would be Conservation. The management intent is to maintain and enhance the area's role as a natural and scenic link for trail users between Salmon Falls and the Peninsula and to protect the important cultural resources located within this zone. Management recommendations include: protecting the cultural resources in the area; conducting an assessment of the archaeological resources for designation as a Cultural Preserve; and upgrading the Darrington trail where necessary to improve safety.

Skunk Hollow/Salmon Falls

The land use classification for Skunk Hollow/Salmon Falls would be Recreation – Medium Intensity. The management intent for this area is to maintain and enhance day-use recreation resources while exploring opportunities to reduce congestion and protecting the important cultural resources within this zone. Management recommendations for recreation include: providing a new trail from Skunk Hollow to the proposed trail along the South Fork from Coloma to Salmon Falls.

El Dorado Shore

The land use classification for El Dorado Shore would be Conservation. The management intent is to maintain the natural and scenic character of the area and protect the important cultural resources while enhancing trail use and access. Management recommendations for recreation include: formalizing the trail between Sweetwater Creek and Old Salmon Falls (gap closure); developing formalized trailhead parking at Sweetwater Creek; and developing a formalized trailhead at the Falcon Crest area of Old Salmon Falls.

Brown's Ravine

The land use classification for Brown's Ravine would be Recreation – High Intensity. The management intent for this area is to enhance and expand aquatic recreation resources to reduce congestion and improve access to Folsom Lake. Facilities and improvements in this area will continue to emphasize high quality day-use aquatic recreation opportunities and an enhanced visitor experience. Management recommendations for recreation include:

increasing slip capacity by roughly 40 percent (260-290 slips) by extending the existing dock system (which may include developing a second breakwater on the west side of the Brown's Ravine inlet); reconfiguring the marina and Hobie Cove boat ramps to maximize launch capacity and reduce congestion; reconfiguring the parking area to provide a queue lane and turnaround at boat ramp; potential development of a multi-use facility that would include water safety training element; and upgrading the storm water system and other measures to accommodate increased run-off volumes, to prevent overflows, and reduce siltation of the marina basin.

Mormon Island Cove

The land use classification for Mormon Island Cove would be Conservation. Although the work on flood control and dam safety projects would be likely to alter the area around the dam, the management intent is to maintain and enhance the area's role as a natural and scenic link for trail users between Brown's Ravine and Folsom Point. Management recommendations for recreation include relocating the Mormon Island Dam trailhead closer to Green Valley Road to increase visibility and reduce vandalism and developing a Class I bike path from the trailhead to Dike 7. The plan also recommends considering interpretation of the mining history of Mormon Island ("Mormon Diggins").

Mormon Island Wetlands Natural Preserve

The land use classification for Mormon Island Preserve would be Preservation. The management intent for this area is to maintain and enhance its role as an important wetland preserve within the park and expand opportunities for interpretation and education. Management recommendations for recreation include: developing a Class I bike path or other trails and interpretive displays around perimeter of the Preserve with the trail connecting to the trailhead at Mormon Island Dam, the proposed bike path to Dike 7, and the City of Folsom's Humbug Creek trail; improving a small trailhead at the Preserve; upgrading existing boardwalks; and enhancing interpretation of the area's resources.

Folsom Point

The land use classification for Folsom Point would be Recreation – Medium Intensity. The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance recreation resources. Facilities and improvements in this area will emphasize high quality day use opportunities. Management recommendations for Folsom Point include: considering development of a multi-use facility that will include water safety training element; reconfiguring picnic area to improve function and quality, including group picnic sites as part of new design; reconfiguring the boat ramp to maximize launch capacity and reduce congestion; exploring the reconfiguration/relocation of the entrance to improve access; and considering expansion

of parking at boat ramp. Management recommendations for the Dike 7 area include: developing a trailhead at Dike 7; providing a Class I bike path to Mormon Island Cove; and promoting provision of a Class I bike path across the canyon on the new Folsom Dam Bridge.

Folsom Dam

The land use classification for Folsom Dam would be Administration. The management intent for this zone is to maintain the primary role of the area in flood control, water supply, power generation, administration and park support. Management recommendations for the area include: accommodating the western approach and landing to the new Folsom Dam Bridge while maintaining and improving park unit visitor information and services; maintaining and improving the American River Water Education facilities; support development of a Class 1 trail connection across the new Folsom Dam Bridge.

Folsom Lake (Aquatic)

The land use classification for Folsom Lake would be Recreation – High Intensity (AQ). The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance the area as a premier aquatic recreation destination providing a diverse range of recreation experiences while properly managing congestion and minimizing the potential for user conflicts. Management recommendations for the lake include: increasing patrol and enforcement in key congestion areas; conducting aquatic visitor surveys to determine real and perceived level of congestion and to identify visitor level of comfort with aquatic safety; and monitoring boat noise levels to determine the need for additional regulation and permit accurate assessments of potential noise effects from future boating-related development.

Middle North Fork (Aquatic)

The land use classification for Middle North Fork (AQ) would be Recreation – Medium Intensity (AQ). The management intent for this zone is to maintain its role as a zone of transition between the open waters of Folsom Lake and the more sheltered waters of the upper North Fork. This transition will be reflected both in the type and intensity of aquatic activity as well as the character and setting provided by the shoreline. Management recommendations for this area include: increasing patrol and enforcement to reduce potential for user conflicts and increase awareness of aquatic safety and etiquette; monitoring aquatic activity in area of Anderson Island Natural Preserve to assess need for an exclusion zone around the island during the nesting season; and monitoring boat noise levels during heavy use periods to determine the need for additional regulation and permit accurate assessments of potential noise effects from future boating-related development.

Upper North Fork (Aquatic)

The land use classification for the Upper North Fork (AQ) would be Conservation (AQ). The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance its role as a zone of serenity and nature appreciation. Management recommendations include: extending the 5 mph zone south to Rattlesnake Bar from its current location just above Mormon Ravine and to increase enforcement of the 5 mph limit to reduce the effects of noise and wakes.

Middle South Fork (Aquatic)

The land use classification for Middle North Fork (AQ) would be Recreation – Medium Intensity (AQ). The management intent for this zone is to maintain its role as a zone of transition between the open waters of Folsom Lake and the more sheltered waters of the Upper South Fork. Management recommendations include: increasing patrol and enforcement to reduce potential for user conflicts and increase awareness of aquatic safety and etiquette; and monitoring boat noise levels during heavy use periods to determine the need for additional regulation.

Upper South Fork (Aquatic)

The land use classification for the Upper South Fork (AQ) would be Conservation (AQ). The management intent for this zone is to maintain and enhance its role as a zone of serenity and nature appreciation. Management recommendations include considering measures to reduce congestion on the water at rafting takeout areas.